

City of Ecorse
Receivership Transition Advisory Board Agenda
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
9:00 am

(Approved on February 11, 2014)

Ecorse City Hall
Council Chambers
Albert B. Buday Civic Center
3869 West Jefferson
Ecorse, MI 48229

Members Present:

Robert Bovitz
Edward Koryzno
Joyce Parker

Staff Present:

Angela Dempkowski
Drew Van de Grift
D. Wayne O'Neal

Members Absent:

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call – Mr. Koryzno called the meeting to order at 9:02 am. Let the record show that all Board members are in attendance.
- B. Approval of Agenda – By motion made (Bovitz) and supported (Parker) the Board unanimously voted to approve the agenda moving 25th District Court Judge – Michael Ciungan to the beginning of the meeting
- C. Approval of December 10, 2013 TAB draft minutes – By motion made (Parker) and supported (Bovitz) the Board unanimously voted to approve the December 10, 2013 TAB Regular Board meeting minutes as presented.

II. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Judge Michael Ciungan gave the Board an overview of the 25th District Court. Everything is running very well. He stated the District Court has the lowest budget and its two-year budget is on track.

B. TAB requested additional information

1. Hennessey Contract

Koryzno - Additional information regarding the sewer contract with Hennessey Engineers has come to the TABs attention which warrants a modification of our prior approval of this matter.

Koryzno - Entertain a motion to approve the Hennessey sewer contract provided 1) Correspondence that the City Attorney's contractual concerns are all addressed, and 2) That proof of the DEQ financing is presented to the TAB.

Van de Grift – Gave a brief summary of the issue. It was unclear if the resolution was just for the planning. The City Attorney also had some concerns with the contractual language.

Bovitz – Have the issues with this contract been settled?

O'Neal – Yes.

By motion made (Bovitz) and supported (Parker) the Board unanimously approved the motion.

2. Approval of Payments

Koryzno - During the December TAB meeting, Ms. Parker posed certain questions to the City concerning whether the reported delinquent attorney fees are indeed owed. Additionally, Ms. Parker asked for more details regarding the City owned properties which have tax liabilities outstanding. Has the City decided whether to allow these properties to be foreclosed upon? Administrator O'Neal, please respond to these matters.

O'Neal – We are sorting out what is actually owed and when to make payments.

Parker – There was a comment made by John Openlander that there were a couple of proposals to purchase Mill Street and there were other properties.

O'Neal – Mr. O'Neal stated that he is reviewing the paperwork.

Parker – Please hold off on making any payments on taxes until the Board receives your report. Ms. Parker suggested that City Administrator O'Neal look into the Turbo Program regarding the Mill Street property.

Koryzno – Entertain a motion that the City Administrator provides a summary report on fees owed and a recommendation on the plan for the Mill Street property.

By motion made (Parker) and supported (Bovitz) the Board unanimously approved the motion.

3. City to provide TAB with detail regarding denial of CGAP grant money

Koryzno - The City of Ecorse has failed to act on the jail and emergency dispatch consolidation plan with River Rouge. I note that in doing so, the City is abandoning not only the \$327,150.00 CGAP grant amount, but also its share of the \$1,610,000.00 savings over 5 years. These minutes serve to record this unwise action for the Governor's review. For these reasons, I would entertain a

motion to adopt a resolution condemning the abandonment of these cost saving measures, and to request that the City Council approve the consolidation plan.

Parker – Councilmember Elam, would you have any information on why Mayor and Council did not accept the CGAP grant money?

Councilmember Elam – When the proposal came to council it was all at once and on very short notice. The Council feels like the City of Ecorse would be shut out if there is a collaboration of services. He stated the City has already lost the Court and it appears the City is being taken over by others. We do not understand what the City of Ecorse will gain by collaborating in this way.

By motion made (Bovitz) and supported (Parker) the Board unanimously approved the motion.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Resolutions & Ordinances for City Council Meetings

1. Resolutions from Regular City Council meeting of November 26, 2013

Koryzno - Entertain a motion to approve all resolutions from the November 26, 2013 City Council meeting, with the exception of Resolution #304.13 (Cordelia Excavating Contract for demolition)

Koryzno - The TAB has not received any information regarding this contract and it is hoped that the contractual disclosures will be made for the February TAB meeting. Resolution #304.13 is NOT APPROVED.

O'Neal – Are you looking for actual signatures on contracts?

Van de Grift – Yes, and also we need the information that shows that the contracts are budgeted.

Koryzno – Any questions from the Board re the November 26, 2013 Council Meeting?

Parker – On Action Item #1 – Decision on acceptance of donation of the residence at 4484 High Street that was submitted by the City Administrator – Why is the City accepting the donation?

O'Neal – This is a duplex and is in very good condition. There are back taxes owed on this property and we want to pay the taxes and resell it.

Parker – On Action Item #4 – Decision on request to exempt properties with lawn irrigation systems from payment of sewer fees – What action was taken on this?

O'Neal – None.

Van de Grift – This was an action item submitted by the City Administrator for the November 26, 2013 Council Agenda, this was not a resolution. The City Council took no action on this item.

By motion made (Bovitz) and supported (Parker) the Board unanimously approved the motion. Resolution #304.13 Cordelia Excavating is NOT APPROVED.

2. Resolutions from Regular City Council meeting of December 10, 2013

Koryzno - Entertain a motion to approve all resolutions from the December 10, 2013 City Council meeting.

Parker – What is the status of the items related to the Walcon property and the Outer Drive Former Fire Station?

O'Neal – Walcon property received two bids and we are still reviewing that information. Former Fire station received three bids. This property has been sold and resolved at the December 18, 2013 Council meeting.

Parker – Why was the item regarding the decision on issuance of city cell phones taken off the agenda?

O'Neal – There are no funds available. Mr. O'Neal stated that he uses his personal cell phone.

By motion made (Parker) and supported (Bovitz) the Board unanimously approved the motion.

B. Letter from City Administrator dated January 7, 2013

1. Paragraphs 1, 3, 4, have been addressed above.

2. Paragraph 2 - November 2013 Budget to Actual financial report

Koryzno - Entertain a motion to approve the November 2013 budget to actual report.

By motion made (Parker) and supported (Bovitz) the Board unanimously approved the motion.

3. Paragraph 5 – WEX added to vendor list

Koryzno - During the previous month, it became necessary for the City to make payments to WEX Bank so that the police credit cards for gasoline would stay

active. Because of this need to make payments independent of TAB meetings, I would entertain a motion to add WEX Bank to the current preapproval list.

By motion made (Bovitz) and supported (Parker) the Board unanimously approved the motion.

4. Paragraph 6 – Ongoing Personnel Issues

Koryzno - Interim City Administrator O'Neal has reported personnel concerns. Administrator O'Neal, please respond to this item.

O'Neal - Issues related to contractual employees have come to my attention. I am questioning plumbing work done in City Hall and the price that the City was charged. The invoice has been received and will not be paid until issues are resolved. Mr. O'Neal also stated that he is having discussions with these employees and will take further action as necessary. He also questioned how a commercial building was built in a residential zone. This should not have been done and should have been stopped beforehand. He met with builder on two occasions and is attempting to facilitate a remedy to this issue.

He further spoke about the priorities he has to deal with and assures the Board that he is taking everything very seriously and doing his best to tackle the issues to resolution. There is much investment in this community and he is interested it bringing it back up.

Parker – What is the status of the City Administrator position?

O'Neal – Mayor and Council will bring the top five applicants to a future Council Meeting. He went on to say that he thought that Mayor and Council should vet out each candidate to be sure the best person is chosen for the position.

Parker – Can you give me a brief summary on the outcome of the audit? Were there any significant issues?

O'Neal – We have done quite well. There are no significant issues. Mr. McCurley provided the Board with a copy of said audit.

IV. NON ACTION ITEMS

5-year Budget Status

O'Neal – City Administrator is meeting with Mr. McCurley this week and will be ready to report out at the next TAB meeting.

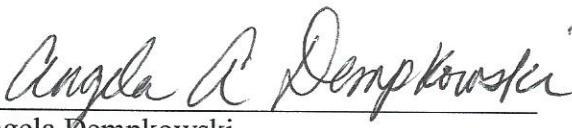
V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Aynes, Garden City, MI – Mr. Aynes inquired as to how long are Emergency Manager orders in affect what is the procedure to amend an EM order and to make a budget amendment.

Van de Grift – Provided a summary of the process to amend EM orders and make budget amendments.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:04 am.



Angela Dempkowski